

[From "The Liberty Bell" : published for the National A. S. Bazaar.]

SONNETS.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN BISHOP ESTLIN.

BY ANNE WARREN WESTON.

I.

YEARS come and go, but our appointed task
 Still lies before us—at our progress slow
 We would not murmur, oor impatient ask
 How long the way through which our steps must go?
 Whither it leads and what its flowers we know,
 And on we would in patient courage move,
 While round us shines the bright and rosy glow
 Reflected from the guiding lights above!
 But as we fail would ring a joyous chime
 In Freedom's honour, as in by-gone time,
 Alas! the notes in silence die away,
 Or mournful on the ear their echoes swell,
 As tones that should have pealed, clear, full and gay,
 Sink to the sadness of a funeral knell!

II.

The just man perisheth, but oh, say not
 None layeth it to heart; a mighty crowd
 Gather in spirit round the hallow'd spot
 Where sleep his ashes; there together bowed
 The Slave, the Blind; the Poor lament aloud
 A friend and brother—men of differing creeds
 Grieve over one so graciously endowed,
 And the remembrance of his life-long deeds
 Of Love and Mercy rise, as perfume strown,
 In lands where his face was never known.
 I, too, could weep, but for the trembling words
 His own hand traced, courage and hope they give;
 This the example his whole life affords,
 "Reaign'd to die, or resolute to live!"*

Weymouth, September 9, 1855.

* In the last letter I ever received from Mr. Estlin, written with the left hand, after the first attack of the disease of which he died, this line was quoted as expressive of his state of mind.

was held in Amory Hall, corner of West and Washington streets. It was here that the Earl of Carlisle sought the Abolitionists where they were to be found, cheerfully engaged in the seemingly trifling, but really all-important duty of the hour, and never since has his voice of cheer been wanting to them in their land or his own. There was that his sister, the Duchess of Sutherland, came in the spirit and by her words of sympathy, "because it was impossible *not* to do whatever might *possibly* be of use," and because she "felt impelled to stretch her hand across the Atlantic to a hand near to every sympathy of her heart," and because "from youth this cause had come between her and her peace." And so she has ever cherished it: and shall not this cause of human nature be, to her latest hour, peace and joy and continual consolation, as in all affliction it is to us?

The pecuniary receipts of these years in Amory Hall stand thus:

1841,	\$2,000		1843,	\$2,812
1842,	2,641		1844,	2,800

After 1844, the Bazaar was held in Faneuil Hall, with the following results:

1845,	\$3,754		1848,	\$3,300
1846,	4,525		1849,	3,560
1847,	4,300		1850,	3,410

At Assembly Hall, near the Worcester Railroad:

1851,	\$3,100
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At Horticultural Hall, School street:

1852,	\$4,052		1852,	\$4,200
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Winter street Hall, No. 15:

1854,	\$5,011		1855,	\$4,650
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For their constant, sympathetic, devoted and abundant coöperation, during all these toilsome years, we feel how much we owe our honoured and beloved associates in

Richmond
The Green
No. 6. Pembroke Villas
April 21. 1863

My dear Grace

It is a long long
while since any written
communication passed
between us, & yet I feel
as if the unwritten, & un-
spoken communion had
never been interrupted. I know
now for a moment about
ed your every recollection
of me, & have daily remem-
bered you with an affection

that cannot change.

I have felt assured
that you could understand
a heart less strong than your
own, which, possessed by a
great sorrow cannot open
itself with the unreserve
to which ^{true} friendship has
a claim & shrinks from
giving to such a claim only
fragments of its outward
life. These few words will
explain, if indeed explanation
were needed, why during
the ^{last} past two years, I have
been so much separated from
old & dearly beloved friends
both here & at home. I
have long since ceased to write

to letters unless constrained by
some necessity. I don't want
to bid you an American except
my two brothers & sisters. &
while feeling sensibly the
loss of the old interchange
of ideas I cannot get over
come the unwillingness to
turn to a past which is
now so full of pain. Circum-
stances & time will I hope
help me to conquer this in-
ability. I do not cherish it
but I speak of it as a fact.
which I am sure you will un-
derstand. ~~My regret~~
perhaps may be regret for
my sake. But, indeed
most of my life since
I wrote to you last has been

Spent with my Aunt & Uncle
at Sheen & Brighton &
London. My Aunt's health
is completely shattered &
she has recently had a
succession of severe attacks
which of course created
a series of alarms & un-
neces. & convalescences. In
which time flows on we
know not how & seems
if it be not measurably
lost - I came now & then
to Richmond for a few
days or hours at a time.
In the last winter came
a very long time during
which my Aunt was un-
able to go out or leave
the room - & could not

2
could see his friends. I was
nursed at that time in
confining myself too much
before I perceived the
strange I found myself
very weak, & at last the ill-
ness came to Rochester
in the last part of February
& for a short time felt
much better for the change
of air & scene, but early
in March I was attacked
by Influenza which was
long & tedious & just as I
began to hope that I was
getting better it seemed to
enter upon a new phase
& the commenced as a con-

gestions of the lungs. I had
no fever & I suppose it
was only the regular course
of an Influenza which would
not leave any organ unaltered.

I was obliged to have done
a good deal of medicine & remedies
which
& with ten days in bed
and a month in my
room reduced me to a
state of great weakness
which has not yet passed
away. I have however been
our repeated by to shine
& have the freedom of their
"Semi-detached" house but
I find all of it very
exhausting - a very little
travelling on a stall of France

position which renders me very
susceptible of changes & renders
of me & indeed makes me
think from an altogether false
I am improving & hope
to get such some measure
of strength before long.
I think I am so changed
you would never know
me. I shall remain
here for the present
My Aunt is worse at least
she has a very grave attack
but she is in charge of
Doctors & Nurses & I could
do nothing for her & am
better away on all accounts.
I need not say to you
who must have watched
with us the progress of

events in America have
entirely we seem to be
identified with it - & how
full of anxious expectation
our lives have been & are

I tried vainly to write to
you on the first of Jan. &
express the thanks & gratings
of my heart for the great
love promised by Pres. A's
Proclamation; but prophe-
ts of evil omen stood all
round about & through
I did not doubt that
it would come - They
did me. It came at last

Mr. West was here on that
day & much as we both
felt the joy & thanksgiving

Many thoughts - were in our
 hearts - too late a sleep for
 words. ~~There is~~ & thus is our
 too with your regarding dear
 friend I don't feel
 able to write to you then.

How strange by life you
 once the bottom & plan
 & always it is the unex-
pected which is certain.

The long deferred hope shown
 & charmed with war & grief
 & fear for our dears our friends
 & our country. It was not
 so that we had hoped.
 The day of emancipation
 would come, though we
 always knew that all
 these were possibilities
 we knew to what end

We lusted & prayed but
nothing is more true
than that our ends are
shaped by unseen forces
which as we sought
them, we never apprehended
The Nation so long blind-
ed & hardened, now sees &
feels. — it understands too
that its present suffering
springs not out of the ground
but has flowed necessarily
from long years of sin's pressure
& now the eleventh hour
Labourers are joining, willing
& dying in the cause as
faithfully as the old
Guard of the "Boston
Board" who so long upheld
the fight alone & so many

Amusing - with one chance
of dress or even washing
their hands. to the first R.R.
Station whence they could
start for the defence of the
Capital (since redeemed from
disgrace). These ~~men~~
these infidel histories were
to fight & fall & conquer or
live on behalf of that Cause
~~Whose~~ whose principles & tendency
they held so grandly set
forth - we hoped it would
triumph in peace - but it
was not to be. Nevertheless
there are in every company of
our Northern troops preachers
& apostles born since 1830
who know perfectly well
the whole scope of the ques-
tion & our Army has fought
its battles with full intelligence
of what it was about. - That
was not what the Anti Slavery

your words have given me strength
to write more content. I have
a deal on my mind on this
subject but I want to get
now & all these last few
days have run from my
pen almost as swarms. There
I find to continue here
there we are fighting for
Empire and for freedom, that
I find myself beginning always
to speak on these topics & even
to you who doubtless think
just as I do about it, though
I can hardly expect you to be
as intelligent as I have been
in the course of Anti Slavery
comprehension round about
us. I remember you always
thought in past times that
we were the Anti Slavery
spirit of England. Do you see
I or many we were
Pro Slavery Nation.

importance though no longer
minority, following the exchange
the minds of the people
Now you be thanked, we
are anti Slavery National
with a large minority still
full of Pro-Slavery attitudes
boaring to drag the people
back into the pit from which
they have been dragged
none faith to believe that
they will labour in vain. Power
is no longer with the oppressor
I believe that we are
fully delivered from the curse
which has plagued us so
long & that no weakness or
mistake of ours can disturb
the order of things. We
must be patient knowing
that the effects of causes which

thing needful is that the
Lords should see where
its great danger lies
the lurking treason, suspected
by some & avowed by
many now stands fully
revealed. & I doubt much
if any political party can
afford to include these
traitors in their ranks.

How much I should like
to see you & talk over these
& a thousand other things!
If you are as much disposed
to understand and for
give my long silence as
I hope I can assure you
will not be dissuaded
by my long letter (which

I thought would be of four
pages when I took up my
pen but you will write to
me & tell me how you
it is with you & something
of how matters look from
your point of view. I am
wondering if you will ask after
old anti-slavery friends
for I have heard of many
who sympathize with the
South, that is to say with
slavery & it was very painful
to hear - but I believe that
in the perseverance of the South
& if there be those who fall
away - I must think they were
self-deceived from the first.
I am, however, surprised that

The rapid progress of ~~the~~
change among our colonial
people & the state of the
American "freedmen" has not
attracted more attention &
sympathy in England. It
seems to me the great event
of the age & must soon
I think engage the atten-
tion of the whole world
The present movement
will go far to solve ^{many} ~~many~~
problems. I should have
thought that a few of the
thousand histories of the
passage of our slaves out of
their house of bondage, which
are published from day to day
would have moved England
as no words of - ours, as our
"Uncle Tom's Cabin" ever could have
done

one class of men a great about
the "sludgers of immediate eman-
cipation" the desperate virtu-
tity of making the President's
Proclamation known in the
plantations. "The truest and best
policy of employing black
soldiers" & all the old
stuff about cutting throats
etc etc. It is all the while
the true change is, that these
slaves should be acknowledged
slaves & treated by their masters
as few really believe that
the liberty, comfort, life, or value
of Black people are as import-
ant as those of white people
& realize they do so believe they
cannot consider these things
to any purpose. I do know
that there are some who
continue to labour & to work
as before. I have lately
had a letter from Patience
who with her brother Thomas

has been very tenderly interested
about these poor Freedmen
of the South. They have
circulated before their "Meet-
ing of Sufferings" & obtained
for them some generous
contributions. I dare say
you may have already
seen their circular which
contains published some
well chosen extracts from
the news papers. It is long
since I have heard from
Mr. Webb who has been
very good however in writing
to me from time to time - I
wish I could think him happier
than I fear he is - I was very
glad to see his interesting
letter to Mr. Webb who came here
with him & who is

my dear young & cultivated
person - it is a comfort to think
that he has such companions
in his bereavement for I fancy
the other thought must be
just the same. They are young
& Miss Webb seemed so strong
& reasonable & thoughtful
& they were comfort
any thing in this life but
If you are good enough to
write pray tell me more than
I deserve to hear about your
self - & give me news of your
good Emma - I remember
her with great affection
I can think gratefully of
her kind thoughts of me &
write about her my family
as well - their letters though
very interesting are now full
of painful details. They speak
wonderfully of you in their last letters
for time cannot slow or wane with

Suffering. I think now
I shall return to America
in the fall - & if I do I sup-
pose Anne Chapman will
enrich on going with me
Anne & I long both much
love to you. M. Lauret is
abroad for a few weeks looking
down with the Influence
They are not really settled
in England ^{yet} - as their moving
is a great expense & trouble
& they are obliged to make their
arrangements slowly. I
think they will soon get to rights
& feel settled. Richmond is a
good place in one sense. It is
gay in another & a disagreeable
one - as it is the constant resort
of pleasure people from London
who crowd its famous Terrace
so that they fairly spoil the
prospect. We hope however
to induce you to come here
& see us before long & until
we meet I am ever affectionately
yours
Caroline Norton